

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Claim 1 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-31 remain pending in the application. Claims 2-31 are currently amended to conform the claims to US form. Additionally, claims 2, 16-20, and 31 were rewritten as independent claims, incorporating the subject matter of original claim 1.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 2 of the Office Action, the PTO has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). In this response, Applicants have cancelled claim 1, making this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the PTO's indication, on page 2 of the Office Action, that claims 2-31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this response, Applicants have amended claims 2, 16-20, and 31 to incorporate all of the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claims. Additionally, claims 3-15 were amended to depend from allowable claim 2 and claims 21-30 were amended to depend from allowable claim 20. As such, claims 2-31 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.


The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a

check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 3/11/08

By 

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